



Arizona Department of Education

Early Childhood Education

ADE / ECE



NEWSLETTER

DATE: FEBRUARY, 2014

Please share this publication with all of your preschool and related services staff (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, etc.) and other interested parties. Past publications are online.

Early Childhood Certification

Early Childhood Certificate ONE TIME OPPORTUNITY!!

Please keep in mind the Early Childhood Endorsement or Certificate is required for state funded, administered by ADE Preschool and Kindergarten teachers. In light of feedback from the field regarding a shortage of Kindergarten teachers, the Arizona Department of Education is temporarily reinstating the Early Childhood Rule (Option C) that allows teachers to qualify for the Early Childhood endorsement with three years full-time teaching experience in grades Birth-Grade 3 and a passing score on the Early Childhood Subject Knowledge exam. **Individuals who do not have three years of full time teaching experience prior to July 1, 2012 will only be able to apply under this option until October 1, 2014.**

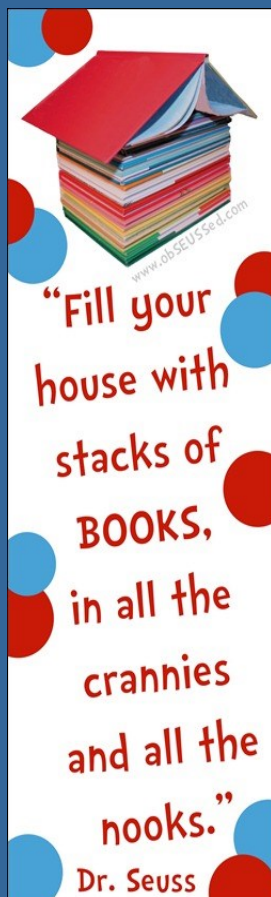
It is highly recommended that 1st - 3rd Grade teachers take advantage of this one-time opportunity in the event they should find themselves in a Kindergarten or preschool classroom.

Individuals will need to take and pass either the NES (Test #101) or AEPA Early Childhood (Test #36) Subject Knowledge exam then submit the completed application for Certification, Verification of Teaching Experience form and a check or money order for \$60 to the Certification office **no later than September 30, 2014.**

The ADE Certification Unit will no longer be able to work with individuals who do not have three years of full time teaching experience in Early Childhood prior to July 1, 2012 and want to qualify under Option C after September 30, 2014. If individuals do not submit their applications by September 30, 2014 they will be required to obtain the Early Childhood endorsement through either Option A or B.

Please contact Jan Pentek or Kasey Ohrns at 602-542-4000 if you have further questions.

Applications for certification and endorsement as well as verification of employment forms are all available on the Certification website <http://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/>.



Celebrate!
Read Across
America
Day
March 3, 2014



What's New in ECQUIP?

By Terry Doolan

Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices (ECQUIP) is a continuous improvement process to ensure quality and accountability among schools within an Early Childhood Program. Each district or charter receiving funds for any of the following programs are required to have an ECQUIP team: First Things First Scholarships, Title I Pre-school, and Early Childhood Special Education. The district/charter team should assess their program and create a plan for enhancement. Remember that all Enhancement Plans for ECQUIP should be uploaded to ALEAT by December 30 of each school year.

Each year the rubric is reviewed and revised to meet the needs of state programs. **There have been a few additions to the ECQUIP rubric for this year.** They are as follows:

2.6 The district has a LEA Literacy Leadership Team and K-3 Literacy Plan that has been submitted to the State Board of Education.

3.1 The district has developed and publishes information regarding the screening schedule, how to obtain a screening appointment and uses an effective means to track screening results.

3.1 Teachers have completed the Inter-rater reliability training in GOLD.

4.2 Policy and procedures for transitions from early intervention to preschool are developed with AzEIP contractors and updated annually.

To see the rubric, please go to:

<http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/2013/09/26/ecquip-standards-rubric/> .

ECQUIP vs EQuIP ~ What's the Difference?

By Terry Doolan

There are now two different ECQUIPs in the state. The ECQUIP is the self-assessment process for Early Child described above.

The other EQuIP is "Educators Evaluating Quality Instructional Products". It is a rubric designed to identify high quality materials that align with the career and college ready standards. It is a tool used by the K-12 population.

The EQuIP rubrics are designed to validate:

- Lessons that include instructional activities and assessments aligned to the college and career ready standards that may extend over a few class periods or days.
- Units that include integrated and focused lessons aligned to the college and career ready standards that extend over a longer period of time.

Questions and Answers from January's PLAY Group

Do you have any ideas on how the administrators can document the hours they receive in house in order to meet the training guidelines? Currently they are having to sign the certificates for their staff, but cannot sign their own. *It depends on who is doing the training. If the administrators are doing the training they can't use the hours for themselves. They need PD hours reflective of their own personalized needs.*

Update on universal preschool in AZ: will this happen? If so, what is the plan? Is this regarding USDOE plan? *If so, once funds are appropriated at the federal level then states have the opportunity to apply for grants. Arizona is well positioned to meet the high levels of quality required to participate due to the Quality First system. However, the question remains as to whether or not AZ will be able to apply for participation due to the high level of state funding match required over the 10 year implementation. It is also important to remember that the original proposal may not look anything like what is finalized. Really, until we see the absolute final opportunity we cannot predict a timeline. During these times it is critical that AZ voters take the opportunity to engage in conversations with their federal representatives to make their desires known.*

The application meeting for the Preschool Grant for the next school year usually takes place in February. Is there a date scheduled for this year? *Once again, the relationship between ADE and FTF is evolving. FTF does plan to host a meeting to discuss the next phase in the evolution of their opportunities, but I am uncertain of the date. We will certainly assist them once their plans are finalized.*

What are we hearing about the state of preschool around the nation? *Nationally, states are embracing preschool overall, but really we are all over the map on how this looks. At one end of the continuum, there are many states that already have voluntary universal preschool statewide for 4 year olds and looking to expand to serving 3 year olds. At the opposite end of the continuum we have states who only serve children with disabilities as required by law. Also, there is great variance among governance models.*

Answered by Amy Corriveau, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Early Childhood Education

For more information about PLAY Group to:

<http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/2012/03/30/az-early-childhood-consortium-meeting/>

“Fairness is not everyone getting the same thing. Fairness is when every child gets what they need.”

Resources and Reminders

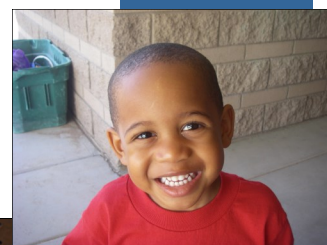
Sharing GOLD Data with Kindergarten Teachers

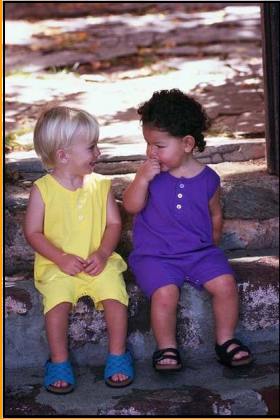
This time of year, preschool coordinators, teachers and families are beginning to think about transitioning children to kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers may not be aware of the rich information on children's development and learning that preschool teachers can share with them. The **DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING REPORT**, available in GOLD through Teacher access, provides **narrative descriptions of each child's current skills and abilities** in all nine areas. Kindergarten teachers do not need to be familiar with the rating system in GOLD to make use of this report.

Reminders

Second GOLD Checkpoint 2/7/2014

Next PLAY Group Meeting: 2/21/2014 at ADE, 3300 N. Central, Room 16-100-101





*Kindness is
the language
which the deaf
can hear and
the blind can
see*

~Mark Twain

Early Intervention Transition Results

By Kathy Coloma

The results are in! Once again School Districts across Arizona have risen to the challenge and maintained a high level of compliance with the IDEA requirement that all children eligible for IDEA Part C Early Intervention services transition to Preschool or be found ineligible by their 3rd birthday.



Statewide Level of Compliance

99%

Number of Children referred for transition from Part C

2453

Number of children found in/eligible by their 3rd birthday

2311

Number of children not meeting the in-by-3 requirement

142

Of those 142 children the number not deductible from the count due to parent/child unavailability,
or as late referrals to Part C

12

Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards

In September, the governor issued an executive order to rename the Common Core Standards. Although the content of the standards remains the same, the state's academic standards will now be called "**Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards.**"

As a reminder, in June 2010, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted a new set of English language arts (speaking, listening, reading, writing) and mathematics standards for grades K-12, called **Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards** (formally the Common Core Standards). The Standards are part of a larger initiative, led by states to ensure students graduate from high school ready to pursue advanced education or training. States worked together to develop the Standards and to date 46 states and the District of Columbia are working to implement them along with new assessments that will be consistent across states, including Arizona. Across the state, schools are implementing **Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards**, which are helping our students to have the academic knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, career, and life. The standards are not only improving what students learn, but how they learn by teaching critical-thinking, problem solving, and effective communication skills.

Save the Date for AZ DEC Spring Training Workshop

When: March 1, 2014 from 9:00-3:00

Where: Desert Willow Conference Center

Listen and learn from presenters from STAR Autism Support, Inc. This conference will help teachers and caregivers support children with Autism or other disabilities by teaching strategies to promote appropriate communication, social, pre-academic skills and independence on routines. The presentation is provided through lecture, videos, demonstration and participation.

The day's activities include:

- A review of evidence based strategies

- Teaching receptive language, attending skills and social communication skills using Discrete Trial Training

- Taching spontaneous language and social/play skills using Pivotal Response Training.

- Teaching independence on routines and generalizing skills learned

Cost: \$60 for DEC Members/\$75 for Non-Members

Discounts are available for full-time students studying Early Childhood and for parents of young children with disabilities (children from birth –age 10)

Continental breakfast and full lunch is included in the price.

A Book Review

Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes

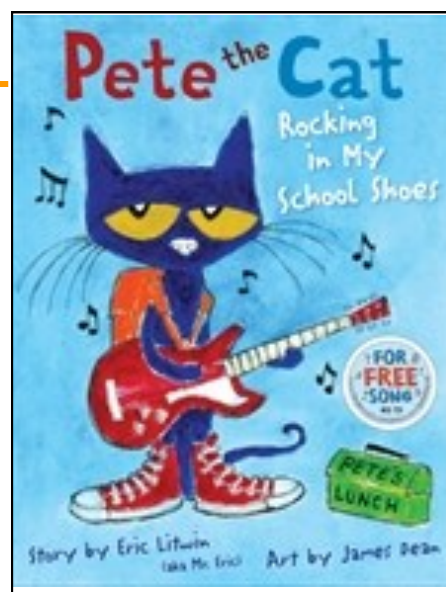
By Eric Litwin, Illustrated by James Dean

By Jacob Irvine (5 years old)

"I like when he rocks in his school shoes!!

My favorite is when he is reading in his school shoes because I love to read.

I like when he rides the bus home to his mom too."



Early Childhood Contacts

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